

**NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

U.S. Department of Justice  
Executive Office for Immigration Review  
Board of Immigration Appeals

---

MATTER OF:

Rafael Juan ESPINOZA, D2021-0225

Respondent

---

**FILED**

JAN 19 2022

ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENT: Pro se

ON BEHALF OF EOIR: Paul A. Rodrigues, Disciplinary Counsel

ON BEHALF OF DHS: Catherine M. O'Connell, Disciplinary Counsel

**IN PRACTITIONER DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS**

On Petition for Immediate Suspension before the Board of Immigration Appeals

Before: Malphrus, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge; Liebowitz, Appellate Immigration Judge; Manuel, Temporary Appellate Immigration Judge

Opinion by Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge Malphrus

MALPHRUS, Deputy Chief Appellate Immigration Judge

On October 28, 2021, the Supreme Court of the State of New York Appellate Division, First Judicial Department, issued an order suspending the respondent from the practice of law in New York, effective immediately. On December 6, 2021, the Disciplinary Counsel for the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) and the Disciplinary Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) jointly petitioned for the respondent's immediate suspension from practice before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS. The petition will be granted. *See* 8 C.F.R. §§ 1003.103(a)(1) and (4) (discussing grounds for immediate suspension).

**ORDER:** The petition is granted, and the respondent is hereby suspended from the practice of law before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, and the DHS pending final disposition of this proceeding. 8 C.F.R. § 1003.103(a)(4).

**FURTHER ORDER:** The respondent shall promptly notify, in writing, any clients with cases currently pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals, the Immigration Courts, or the DHS that the respondent has been suspended from practicing before these bodies.

**FURTHER ORDER:** The respondent shall maintain records to evidence compliance with this order.



D2021-0225

FURTHER ORDER: The contents of this notice shall be made available to the public, including at Immigration Courts and appropriate offices of the DHS.